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**Date:** March 14, 2007

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Ex. Stevens,

Applicants request an interview with the Examiner and the supervising Examiner relative to the above-identified application 09/543,284, with the agenda being:

A review the Examiner's understanding of the cited art, with an eye towards better understanding the rejection.

To the best of applicants' current understanding, the Examiner is basing the rejection on the similarity in language between applicants' invention (Synchronous Relaxation) as reflected in the claims, and the "Bounded Lag" publication by Dr. Lubachevsky - one of the two inventors in the subject application. Both the publication and subject claims relate to the problem of simulating events on parallel machines. Both have performance guarantees which, under appropriate assumptions, result in no more than a factor of  $\log N$  in slowdown, where  $N$  is the number of parallel machines.

It is respectfully noted, however, that similarity in language, application, and performance *does not mean that the methods are the same or even similar.*

The most glaring difference is that the "Bounded Lag" approach is a conservative approach, meaning that every event that is processed is guaranteed to be correctly processed. In contrast, the "Synchronous Relaxation" approach is an optimistic approach. Under "Synchronous Relaxation" a processor may process events incorrectly, but all errors are eventually corrected (e.g., through step of "repeating step c" in claim 1).

*we check 1*  
By return fax, or by email addressed to [henry@brendzel.com](mailto:henry@brendzel.com), please offer a number of dates/times when we can have the interview, and I will check with Dr. Weiss (the other of the two inventors, who was kind enough to agree to participate in the interview) to see his availabilities.

Respectfully yours,